



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • www.governor.wa.gov

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, current and projected general weather conditions and fire fuel conditions present a continuing high risk of severe wild fires in Washington State; and

Significant fires resulting in damage to homes, infrastructure, natural resources, and businesses began to occur with regularity in August 2006, threatening citizens and property in Washington State; and

The potential threat to life and property from wild fires is extreme and could cause extensive additional damage to homes, public facilities, businesses, public utilities, and infrastructure in Washington State and endanger the public welfare; and

Wild fire fighting resources are scarce throughout the state, region, and nation due to current and projected fire fighting efforts in other areas; and

Current resource availability would not be adequate to address the outbreak of simultaneous large fires in Washington State and in such a case the Washington National Guard would be needed to assist other jurisdictions and agencies in fire fighting duties;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the aforementioned situation and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52, 43.06, and 43.43 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists throughout Washington State and direct the supporting plans and procedures to the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from these events. I also hereby order into active state service the Washington National Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of the Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of
the state of Washington to be affixed at
Olympia, this 23rd day of August, A. D.,
Two Thousand and Six.

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Secretary of State



STATE OF WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO Box 47721 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7721 • (360) 407-6200 • FAX (360) 407-6215

Resolution No.05-01
Washington State Conservation Commission
School Fire

Whereas, thousands of acres were burned on private grounds in headwaters of national forests commonly known as the "School Fire"; and

Whereas, this presents a great and eminent risk of erosion on very steep slopes that will carry huge loads of sediment into watercourses which are habitat for important anadromous, resident fish species and bull trout; and

Whereas, the affected area has a history of debris flows and flood events that threaten inhabitants, residential and commercial property along these affected watercourses; and

Whereas, as established by science and experience the establishment of a winter cover crop could significantly and effectively mitigate the impending harmful effects of the fire;

Whereas, to be effective, the cover crop must be planted immediately to become established before the soon approaching heavy winter rains; and

Whereas, it is incumbent upon the Commission to act consistent with its enabling act, RCW 89.08, since no other Local, State or Federal Agency has the financial resources available for timely remedial action;

NOW, THEREFORE, having made the findings stated above, Washington State Conservation Commission believes that an emergency exists and makes the following resolution to protect people, property and endangered fish resources of the Pomeroy and Columbia Conservation Districts.

Commissioner Boyum moved to empower the staff to seek funding for conservation practices to mitigate the effects of the fire. After funding is sought from other sources, the Commission approves funding at a maximum of \$200,000 for the school fire, with the proper nexus and understanding that an attempt will be made to ask the legislature to refill the operating budget with a maximum of \$200,000. Commissioner Brown seconds. Motion passed.

James L. Peters, Commission Chair
September 15, 2005

Mark A. Clark, Executive Director
September 15, 2005

InciWeb - Wildland Fire and Incident Information System

You are here: [National](#) > [Washington](#) > [Washington State - Southeast](#) > Columbia Complex Wildland Fire

Columbia Complex Wildland Fire

Incident Contact: [Columbia Complex Information Office](#) (509) 337-6059

ANNOUNCEMENT

Road Closures Relaxed in Columbia Complex Fire
WAITSBURG INCIDENT COMMAND POST - The Columbia County Sheriff's Office, working in cooperation with Columbia Complex fire officials, opened one local road Sunday and moved a roadblock back on another.... [more](#)



Crew digging line on a hillside, 9/6.

Credit: Kahil Detrich

[click to enlarge](#)

Summary

Contact: Columbia Complex Information (509) 337-6059 or (509) 337-6239

PNW Team 2 website: www.pnw2.com and email: info@pnw2.com

Open 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. local time

Current News - Summary updated Monday 9/11/2006 at 8:00 a.m.

The fire is now 75 percent contained. Firefighters hope to burn out the upper North Fork of the Touchet and the upper Wolf Fork drainages today in order to eliminate two large, unburned areas that could threaten fire lines. They will use helicopters to ignite a broadcast burn. Expect large amounts of smoke. Two crews camping in the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness continue to prepare fire lines along the Misery Trail in the Wilderness.

Fire investigators have determined that 30 structures were destroyed or damaged in the early days of the Columbia Complex fire, including one full-time residence, five recreation residences and seven abandoned cabins. Calcium chloride is being spread on the Hatley Road between North Touchet Road and the Skyline SnoPark to reduce dust.

With continued warm and dry conditions and a predicted inversion, the fire will spread slowly, creeping through underbrush and igniting single trees. Fuel moistures remain at 6 percent or lower. The probability of ignition today is 84 percent, meaning a match dropped on the ground has an 84 percent chance of starting a fire. There is no estimated date of containment.

The surrounding communities including Waitsburg, Dayton, and Pomeroy are open for business.

Today's Weather: The region remains under a ridge of high pressure. Expect inversions in the valleys. An upper-level front will move through the area late Tuesday and Wednesday, bringing increased winds. Rain is forecast for Thursday along with cooler temperatures. Highs today will be 70 - 75 on the ridges and 75 - 82 in the valleys. Humidity will be 17 - 22 percent at higher elevations and 16 - 19 percent in the valleys. Winds will be light from the west, southwest becoming west-northwest in the afternoon.

Basic Information

Updated	2006-09-11 12:53:47 ET
Incident Type	Wildland Fire
Benefits & Objectives	Primary objectives are public and firefighter safety. Prevent damage to, or loss of, structures. Protect and minimize loss or damage to natural resources. Give preference to the use of water or foam as a suppressant; avoid the use of retardant in drainage areas or near lakes and streams. Umatilla N.F: Protection of the Mill Creek Watershed, Bluewood ski area and Little Turkey Recreation area.
Cause	Lightning
Date of Origin	08/21/2006 at 2301 hrs.
Location	east of Dayton and Waitsburg, WA
Incident Commander	Mike Lohrey

Current Situation

Size	103,100 acres
Percent Contained	75%
Estimated Containment Date	

Total Personnel	1,053
Fuels Involved	Varied fuels over the fire areas include grasslands, brush, wheat and wheat stubble, timber stringers, and some timber land. Some private residences and structures are also threatened.
Fire Behavior	Mostly backing and creeping, with some single tree and group torching, and short up hill runs with the wind.
Today's Significant Events	Burnouts completed and line held reducing the threat to the Bluewood Ski Area and the Mill Creek municipal-supply watershed. Crews are checking fire in Meadow Creek, while line is being constructed and prepped for burnout on Road 4608. Line construction and prep continues in Divisions P, O and N. Crews are being coyoted in Division O.

Outlook

Estimated Date of Control	
Planned Actions	Line construction, structure protection, construction of indirect lines, preparation of roads to be used as contingency lines and burnout of lines.
Projected Movement	No appreciable growth expected.
Growth Potential	Extreme
Terrain Difficulty	Extreme
Containment Target	Moderate
Remarks	Type 2 IMT ordered to be in briefed at the Walla Walla Ranger District Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 09:00.

Weather

Current Wind Conditions	6 mph SW
Current Temperature	68 degrees
Current Humidity	22 %
Forecasted Wind Conditions	8 mph SW
Forecasted Temperature	71 degrees
Forecasted Humidity	18 %

[Links](#) [Terminology](#) [About This Site](#) [Help](#) [Feeds](#) [Disclaimer](#) [Privacy Act](#) [Log In](#)